

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

Chief, Legislative Liaison
7B14 Hqs.

EXTENSION

NO.

OEXA 82-0284/6

DATE

7 April 1982

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

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Attached is the transcript from the SSCI 15 March 1982 hearing on El Salvador that you requested. Also attached is the SSCI receipt for the transcript. Please sign and return to me for transmittal back to the Committee.

Attachments

FORM 1-79

610

USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

Aside from the forced evacuation and wholesale burning of Indian villages by Sandinista authorities, government violence against the Miskitos reportedly has included atrocities and generalized harassment of the native population. Numerous reports from refugees, Catholic priests, and other sources cite bombings of villages, executions, massacres, and other repressive acts. Although we are not able to confirm the reliability of all of this information, the variety of sources--including eyewitnesses--and the wealth of reports that coincide in describing particular events reveal a pattern of official violence and repression against the Miskitos.

US Embassy officials in Tegucigalpa recently traveled to the Mosquitia area in Honduras and interviewed some of the thousands of Nicaraguan Indians who have fled across the border (see board).

Catholic missionaries, who have been working for many years with the Indian communities in Nicaragua, also have reported incidents of violence and harassment (see board).

Several reports from intelligence sources in the area have also detailed Sandinista repression (see board).

Finally, Steadman Fagoth, exiled leader of Nicaragua's Miskito Indians, has provided extensive--but unconfirmed--accounts of Sandinista atrocities and repression (see board).

In late January, the Nicaraguan Government imposed travel restrictions--for "security" reasons--on the entire Department of Zelaya, which encompasses the eastern half of Nicaragua. Because of the censorship on news about the situation on the Atlantic

Coast, information regarding repressive actions against the Miskitos has received only limited press treatment in Nicaragua and in the international press.